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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Brent Kevin Larson )  
For: ELASTOMER COMPOSITION WHICH )  
CONTAINS INTERCALATED AND )  
EXFOLIATED CLAY REINFORCEMENT )  
FORMED IN SITU WITHIN THE )  
ELASTOMER HOST AND ARTICLE, SUCH )  
AS A TIRE, HAVING AT LEAST ONE )  
COMPONENT THEREOF )  
Serial No.: 09/897,315 )  
Filed: July 2, 2001 )

Confirmation No.: 1737  
Docket No.: DN2001138X01  
Art Unit: 1714  
Examiner: Katarzyna I. Wyrozebski Lee

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the 10th day of August, 2004.

Stacy J. Sidle  
Stacy J. Sidle

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner of Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Official Action dated May 10, 2004, no paper number given, please make the following amendments in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the Applicant's invention.